

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
CONTACT: Jared Cordes

May 14, 2008

(202) 225-5235

## **BOYD STANDS UP FOR FLORIDA'S FARMERS**

*Farm Bill provides historic support for Florida's specialty crops*

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congressman Allen Boyd (D-North Florida), a fifth generation farmer and a member of the House of Representatives, today announced his support for the Farm Bill.

The Farm Bill establishes a mandatory Specialty Crop Research Initiative to help meet the pressing research needs of specialty crop producers.

In the past, specialty crops, like those grown in Florida, have not received traditional Farm Bill benefits for research and marketing.

“Fruits and vegetables must have an equal seat at the table, and that is what this Farm Bill does,” said Boyd.

Also critical to Florida, the Farm Bill increases total spending on conservation programs by \$7.9 billion a year.

The Farm Bill also creates a new disaster assistance program to assist agriculture producers who lose their crops due to natural disasters.

Additionally, the Farm Bill takes critical steps to expand renewable fuel production needed to encourage energy independence.

“As I have said many times before, our country cannot continue to be the strongest country in the world if we do not produce our own energy,” Boyd said.

The fiscally responsible Farm Bill is fully paid for and does not add to the federal budget deficit. The corn

“This Farm Bill cuts across party and regional lines and reflects the need to ensure the economic vitality

The Farm Bill has been endorsed by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and

-30-